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contemporary travelers, who bear uniform witness to the hardships of journeys in the olden time.

EDWIN E. SPARKS.

Napoleon, a Short Biography. By R. M. JOHNSTON. (New York : A. S. Barnes and Company. 1904. Pp. xv, 248.)

THIS is "a lightning portrait" of the poor Corsican who one hundred years ago by the force of his intellect and character, aided by conditions which furnished him an opportunity, made himself emperor of the French. The author does not pretend that it is anything more. In the immense mass of literature relating to the Napoleonic period, "probably approaching forty thousand books", it is easy for the student of even a limited part of the tremendous story to lose his way. To retain a proper perspective of the whole picture, to keep the main facts of the troublous twenty years crisply in view, may lead him more than once to resort to such a volume. Details else might drown him. In this sense the book is useful and well-balanced, although, because it is a mere sketch, some lines of the portrait are purposely drawn with a stronger hand than would be permissible in a finished portrait. The pages contain more about the politics of Europe and the affairs of state of France than they do of the wonderful military exploits which made it possible for Napoleon to rise. Some of each are more fully treated than others. To the eighteenth Brumaire, the Code Napoleon, the Cadoudal plot, and the execution of the Duke d'Enghien, considerable space is given, as if in the author's eye these were the character lines of the face. The military side is of necessity wanting, although to the civilian reader the general idea of the campaigns is pointed out. As is perhaps natural, and as English-speaking peoples demand, the closing drama of Waterloo is afforded much space. Yet it was not Waterloo which lost Napoleon his throne. Had he won the battle of Waterloo, he must have been later defeated in the same year. Regarded from the military standpoint, the battle of Waterloo, to which twelve pages are given, is of less interest and showed far less ability than the operations south of Ratisbon in 1809, to which six lines are devoted. Writing for the audience he does, the author is no doubt justified in thus finishing his croquis with a bold black stroke, for few people care to study Napoleon's campaigns intimately. To one who has patiently assimilated the 22,067 official documents, plus the St. Helena papers, in the *Correspondence of Napoleon*, the portrait must necessarily appear crude; but within the compass of 250 small pages, it is doubtful whether more could be done.

As a soldier Napoleon committed fewer mistakes and did finer work than any other man of modern times. As a statesman his great mistake was not to see that whatever plan of conquest he might by military force accomplish would eventually be wrecked by the aspirations of all countries speaking the same language to remain one. Yet he could not refrain from playing with the states of Europe as if they were a pack of

cards. In his younger years he saw facts and gaged their value with an unerring eye. In later years success seems to have robbed him of this power. In the German campaign of 1813, he could, by European guaranty, have saved France to himself and his family, with its limits of the Rhine, the Alps, and the Pyrenees; he was not wise enough to accept these terms, and his personal ambition realized naught. Napoleon's labors were limited to working out the results of the French Revolution, and preserving for France, Italy, and the adjoining states the instincts of liberty which have helped them out of the slough of tyranny. What more he might have created could not be maintained by any one less strong, and men of his stamp are rare. His scheme to emulate Charles the Great was bound to fail.

This volume is furnished with nine diagrammatic charts which elucidate the text, with a chronological table and a bibliographical note at the end of each chapter, and with an appendix giving the family tree of the Bonapartes, and showing how Prince Victor still represents the imperial aspirations of a considerable body of Frenchmen. The style is strong and fluent, and the book is well printed on good paper. For any one — and in busy to-day there are many such — that simply desires to refresh his memory as to the two Napoleonic decades, no volume can be more highly commended. The most interesting of the charts is opposite page 170. It shows at a glance how large a part of Europe Napoleon had added to France in 1809. Had a few of the great rivers been added to orient the whole, and had the ante-Revolutionary limits of France been inserted in black, the chart would have been yet more effective.

THEODORE AYRAULT DODGE.

Hanover and Prussia, 1795-1803: a Study in Neutrality. By GUY STANTON FORD, Ph.D. [Columbia Studies in History, Economics, and Public Law, Vol. XVIII., No. 3.] (New York: The Macmillan Company; London: P. S. King and Son. 1903. Pp. 316.)

THE twenty years from the death of Frederick the Great to the formation of the Confederation of the Rhine is still for Prussian history largely a *terra incognita*, especially to English readers. Sorel has done much to elucidate the diplomatic intricacies of the earlier part of this period, and the great Prussian statesmen and reformers of the Liberation Era have had their biographers. Dr. Ford's admirable study now gives a very satisfactory account of the diplomatic history from the peace of Basel to 1803. In writing of Hanover it has been usual to assume as a matter of course that since George III. ruled in England and in the Electorate, there is a close connection between English and Hanoverian policy, and that the former determined the latter. Dr. Ford's whole thesis goes to show that this is not so; that in reality any close study of Hanoverian policy at once necessitates a study of that of Prussia. Prussian, not